

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 10 Number 11

March - April, 1955

SOME UNEXPECTEDS



There is vast virtue in being reliable. I recall a poll that tallied qualities most sought and satisfying to form true friendships, totaled its score with **DEPENDABILITY** winning sweepstakes. One need not be dull to be dependable, you know. Your finger in any pie may be depended on to assure some savory delight, some unexpected flavor.

So-o, it is fun to come up here with a few things that you wouldn't expect—Matreshkas, the real old-time Russian made ones that have delighted and instructed tots for generations. These fit-in toys are decorative and collection worthy, limited stock which may mean disappointment for some, but do try. There are more of the \$3.00 than \$2.50 size.

No. 940C 4½" Six Nested, \$2.50

No. 940D 6" Eight Nested \$3.00

What is "pre-war" in this era? One must be war specific, so let's



say long pre-Pearl Harbor, Kimport carried a classic type Japanese girl doll that was called "Etsu" on her pedigree page. They came in various sizes, dear child type

Oriental with smooth complexion of powdered shell, shapely inset eyes, ebony black straight hair, and wearing silk-like or fine cotton kimonos.

For several years now we have offered exquisite made-to-order Geisha girls with elaborate coiffures and rich, wee garments; wisteria girl, the one with a lute or with an absurd horse head on a stick—dolls only 7 inches tall including a black lacquer base, No. 805, \$5.95 each. They are choice.

But only this month did we find commercial Etsus at a price. Many will welcome her back in this wanted 8½ inch size, pretty face, long bobbed hair falling to the shoulders of her richly patterned red kimono. The obi is gold brocade

with that pretty puff of shirred thin silk above it at her breast. Bare feet and hands are the same material and finished as her chubby face, a face with "almond" glass eyes under their delicately sketched brows. Individually boxed.

No. 808 8½" Etsu, \$2.50

Still from that Far East part of the world, we have another surprise; it is something most interesting, from India, via C.A.R.E., but only for you who like them small. These are wooden "Home Maker" and "Home Guard"—so dubbed by us because, so far there has been no time to unravel the meaning of "Kondapali" which the invoice said they were. About 3¾ inches tall on fancy painted bases, topped with stark cobalt blue, these brown bodied Hindus have snow-white painted garments with touches of black, opaque yellow and red.

No. 654, Man with stick gun, \$2.95

No. 654A, Woman with cooking things, \$2.95

No. 654SP, Pair together, \$5.00

Another that was unexpected to us, was a small lot of ebony black figures from Tanganyika, East Africa. We have stocked Wakambi carvings for, oh, eighteen years perhaps, except when soldiers from here-and-there in shopping the native markets bought up the output of all handcrafts. Those are of brown wood, or of a streaked black and white wood, but these Tanganyika dolls are lustrous black. No two alike although the men are gaunt, some bearded like old Egyptians, and average 9 inches tall, while a few of the women,

straight and dignified, are 11 inches tall. They're all impressive African carvings, on bases.

No. 108, Man of Tanganyika, \$10.00

No. 108A, Woman, \$10.00

Two only, African beaded dolls that are old time ones, and certainly fascinating examples of a craft seldom developed by native Negroes. The first one we saw years ago, belongs to Mrs. Luta Ferrell of Washington, D. C. Hers came to her as a "fertility doll"—gift—and the information that such amazing work was done only by the Ndebele, a tribe of South African Bantu. There is a stuffed interior cone, first completely encased in a lattice of chalk-white beads. Over this are bracelets, about finger size around, some patterned, some white or other plain color. The head like those little Zuni water carriers in last Doll Talk is a solidly beaded ball, all wonderfully accurate yet primitive looking as can be. The larger of our two is 10½ inches tall, with a dark red face, blue hair, black and white eyes, with a funny little bang between them. It takes seventeen of the diagonally beaded rings to cover her. No A533, \$30.00.

The smaller, 7½ inches tall, has a sort of slender neck section between her highly conventional design ball of a head and the dainty top bracelet of the dozen that encase her. This one, too, has a lovely little skirt, all beads in lacy pattern. No. A534, \$25.00.

The man who secured these gave the tribe as "Mapoka," and said they might have to do with marriage ceremonials. Who ever gets these, certainly will treasure them.

—WILL RISE AGAIN

There is an ancient type of tilting-toy or doll that rolls promptly back to a vertical position. In China, where it is thought to have originated, it is called, "Rise up little Priest." There, it was usually painted like an old man with a fan. Esther Singleton in her book, "Dolls," suggests that originally such roley-boley dolls, which children have toppled and played with for centuries, had a religious or morale significance. One celestial tradition is that Buddha cannot fall, and remember in any Punch and Judy script how repeatedly important is, "Down he goes—Up he comes!"

IT'S A DATE

In Paris, 1824, a patent was requested for a voice box doll. A sort of bellows in its chest would make a two-syllable air-in and air-out sound ("ma ma," of course) when the dolls arm was raised.

BREAST THE WAVE

One mechanical doll was an honest-to-goodness swimmer, but playing with this windup toy was such fun that few indeed are found intact today. One was in the San Diego Goodwill exhibit last January; Miss Ethel Bobbitt, show manager, assured it's performance but said it was much too rare and valuable to be indiscriminately "dunked." Clad in an early day swim suit, this agile dolly does a series of arm and leg strokes as the springs in its body unwind.

A WINNER!

Helen Plants writes about how she enjoys her Doll-Of-The-Month; about speaking before some out of town group on her Odd Material dolls; asks why do the dolls from India go in for flattish mask faces—and this paragraph which contains a suggestion in word picture form: "Re Indians, American, I imagine you'll be interested to hear of the use I made of my Navajo Weaver. Last fall, the flower show here had a historical motif and one arrangement class was 'The First Americans.' I arranged gray, sage-like branches, goldenrod and sunflower in an Indian pottery pitcher and used my weaver in front as an accessory. This resulted in a blue ribbon. Two or three other entries in other classes used doll accessories to carry out the historical theme and I think every one of these got a ribbon. Coincidence? I doubt it."

REPEATER!

Amongst the pleased and pleasing persons to whom Kimport has been sending a Doll o' Month, Mrs. Mae Underwood of Illinois ranks high—here's why! After more than approving Miss Georgie's selection for the Underwood "Lucky 13th," she concludes: "And now this is 'lazy Mae' again saying—to heck with the form! Let's simply continue right along as we were. With one exception—raise the price from \$5.00 to \$7.50. I still like the type of dolls you've been selecting though for next year's hitch."

THE EYES HAVE IT

Kimport and its D.T. could not long remain in the Doll World unless many of your letters continue saying, "Enclosed please find" But also we do so prize the vignettes of doll information, and even the thought provoking questions that are scattered through the pages of your letters. When a serious minded collector goes in to find out the lineage of waxes or woodens or bisque markings or any one of fascinating lines that can be traced, she usually is generous in sharing even tidbits of new information. All this, right now because Mrs. R. A. Loving shares. "The wax lady sounds so wonderful that she makes me drool, but actually I have no good excuse for adding another wax bonnet doll to my collection.

"I did find a glass eyed china with painted, molded hair, after a year's searching. I have a feeling she is German. The china is not nearly as fine as the French china dolls with glass eyes, cork pates and wigs (Huret-Rohmer—whatever). A girl who had a repair job to do on one, told me the eyes were porcelain like the Queen Anne's—not glass. There is a spot in which we could do some research, if we knew how to find information on them. I know they are earlier than the French type; that is obvious, from the type of china."

THE RESILIENT TYPE

By way of apology, our friend, Alice Hill, writes that she isn't too husky a person at any time, and, living alone, much seems to fall on her shoulders. She does have time to enjoy interesting dolls, though, and is a top bracket Doll-of-the-Month member, currently subscribing for TWO pairs of Presidents and First Ladies each thirty days. Whew! That looks like Kimport will be coming through with four dolls instead of one "lucky 13th."

But we started to give a buoyant Texas quote from Mrs. Hill: "Sorry to have been a little slow this time; I've been having quite a lot of extra work done around home, and by the time it was finished—I was, too!"

"HELLO CENTRAL"

Those were the words on a newspaper picture of a little old-fashioned girl standing on a chair to reach the golden oak wall phone. Under this was written, "We listened to election returns on a ringer like this when McKinley was elected."

As a further Correspondence Clipping from the same note: "I am a 71 year old great-grandmother and have four generations of dolls starting with my three-faced doll that is nearly as old as I. It has a bisque head that turns with a ring on top; sleeps, frowns and smiles. Dolls are a hobby good for all, young and old."

'Need a GIANT size stand? To fill some special requests we had some heavy ones made that will accommodate those big show dolls who stand 33 to 48" tall. No. 31F, \$4-50. For dolls 24 to 30" tall, No. 31E, \$3.00.



Q. What is-was-a Billiken doll?

A. Not really a doll, ever, but a funny, fat, Oriental-elfin-like figure, seated, with his short little legs barely ahead of his tummy! A face-on view shows bare foot soles, arms tight down to his rotund sides, the grinning, puff cheeked head grotesquely low. Special personal memories include my own cartooning of our Superintendent of Schools in such an unmistakably successful likeness to the paunchy, baldish Billiken that family and faculty decided pronto that the brash child should stress her talents elsewhere such as—abstract design or something equally safe! That was 1910—so there's another date!

P.S. There is an heroic size gilt Billiken on the front lawn of the Lehigh Valley Club at Allentown, Pennsylvania. Our Q. "WHY?"

Q. What is the relation or differences of creche and krippen? I am certain they mean the nativity scene—someway.

A. Yes, creche is a French word and krippen, German, but either is the religious grouping of Holy Family always, and then few or many other figurines or dolls, beautifully displayed at Christmas time. The Italian name, by the way, is 'Presepio.'

Q. Why were doll makers so tardy about making baby faced dolls? Was Bye-Lo the first?

A. Oh, dear, no! Grace Story Putnam did model her terrifically successful 'three day old' infant (1924) as an innovation, the new born, tiny, pucker faced Bye-Lo. But there had been scores of character babies in both bisque and composition.

And for the first half of the question, there were quite a few really early baby types, plaster, papier-mache and other improved compositions, as well as lovely wax ones. But the lady-headed dolls were indeed in vast predominance. Perhaps because manufacturers were complacently pleased with their sales as they were; perhaps because motherly little girls babyfied the doll in hand; perhaps because our surging 20th century is so different from the staid 19th.

TOPS IN TOPPERS

Mrs. W. H. Wooster, just back from Europe, wrote for a good Italian representative, as the idea of collecting dolls had not struck her until after their Italian tour. She sent along this item of interest, too: "Since dolls are your business, I'll tell you what I did with my European dolls coming home. For a Fancy Hat Contest, I made a headband of pasteboard and on it fastened my nine new little dolls, with short ones in front, tall in back, so their heads appeared level, their varied costumes making a colorful chapeau. I called it 'Sisters Under the Skin' from Kipling's poem, and not only received many compliments but was happy to get the loving cup for the most artistic entry."

LATE ARRIVALS

'Ol' Front Page' mainly snatched 'em again, but here are a few more, not "amazing," but welcome and available.



'Philippa' is back from Madeira, after quite an absence from our stock. She comes in a cunning new version, made by that artistic young Portuguese designer, 'Maria Helena.' Ruddy complexioned, her funny, stitched features look even more elfin due to the pixie Madeira cap which is favored on her Island home. Smartly and sturdily made to stand on her leather booted feet; those are multicolored felt

stripes on her red suit skirt, and there's an embroidered vestee under her pert felt cape. Six and a half inches tall, she comes bearing a posey. No. 1008, \$4.50.



From other Isles there are fresh shipments in those splendid Scotch dolls—Andrew and Agnes that we first showed two years ago. They are modeled as lad and lassie as well as distinctively dressed. 8½ inches, No. 265 for him and No. 265A, her, at \$5.00 each.

And Miss Bridget, 'belave it or no,' arrived on good St. Patrick's Day! She's a hardy, blue eyed charmer, really from Chad Valley England as are the matching Scotch young folk. Same size, same fine quality, all three are made of solid, silk-smooth latex.



Dressed in white organdie with Erin green short skirt and head scarf; there's a cherry felt shawl, too, to set off her heavy dark curls. No. 263B, \$5.00.

So glad you liked Luther and Wesley. Almost everybody who ordered one, sent back for the other. They'll be available, as such all hand-made dolls are made to order anyway.

And now, how about the late Aimee Semple McPherson? There came a request for one for some collector's religious group; we had one made, a determined but feminine looking blond evangelist, in shining white robe, long purple velvet cape and a cross of jewels on the short velvet surplice. The right hand is made to lift and point

aloft. Right height scale to group with the others, about 8¾ inches tall from white shoe toes to marcell modeled top. No. 79—Aimee Semple McPherson—\$10.00.

Our Mexican Late Arrival is on your envelope this time. Hope you will give him fair consideration, as really, that craft of fashioning intricate shapes by the weaving of tough plant fibers, is a highly individual art. Bright dyes, magenta, gamboge, bottle green, add color vividness to the artistry in posture and action which the Mexican doll maker has achieved. Six inch peon, posed, cutting into a giant maguey. He has a cute pedigree page, too. No. 363, 5½" \$1.00.

CHILEAN FETISH

Charlotte G. Bailey writes of her Chilean miniatures, not really dolls, but images made of solid silver. They are a man and a woman about one inch high, religious symbols of fertility among some native tribe. I am told that there is only one family of silversmiths who are empowered to produce these little characters.

The woman is very realistic — and almost attractive. The man, however, has a mask over his face (sort of demon affair!) and a grotesque form. There are holes bored in the top of the heads and I wear them on a chain around my neck when lecturing or showing the dolls. I don't think it best to exhibit them along with the other dolls, since these little nudes might be offensive, and also being of considerable value, they might sometime do a disappearing act!



"Unexpecteds" were fun on the front page his time, so here are Antiques that were unusual. Goodness knows, that might always be a lead for this department as old dolls of strange kinds and from queer places are constantly coming our way.

Take Admiral Peary, for instance. Did you know that a commemorative doll was made in honor of this intrepid discoverer? Found one down in the Ozarks, with a skinned nose which our Bessie repaired, but moths had never invaded the real fur trim on his furcloth outfit or even his handsome mustache. Thirteen inch size, strictly an adult likeness and proportions—circa 1909. Remember? No. A535, \$15.00.

Never an expensive wax doll, but in surprisingly original condition, is "My Darling." Yes, those words as well as much old-country design are stenciled in delft blue on her loosely woven white shift. Stockings in ribbed composition are the same blue, and so are her paperweight, big, glass eyes. Candy-pink cheeks softly blend into her waxed complexion. A sweet doll face she has, with blonde, short cut mohair wig through which the original blue ribbon is wound. 22 inches tall, the long bodied type with rather short composition arms. About 1885, No. A284, \$20.00.

Brown hair on a glazed china, or even rich, real brown on a par-

ian, is unusual, but here is one of each, and again unusual, both are boys.

The china is a head only, 2½ inch size, with a plump little boy face; pink glaze; extra large, round, blue eyes; 1 5/8 inches across the full fronted shoulders, underglaze C on their back; head is made with a small, peg size hole extending up through the neck. Brown hair, side parted and scalloped down the temples adds to the rich coloring. Would make a baby or little boy tot about 5 inches tall. Underglaze flaw on top of his head. No. A594-SP., \$18.00.

The parian is an utterly different doll, a high browed lad with prim little features under his rounded forehead. He has those plumply rounded shoulders, beautiful, cupped arms and gaiter laced flat shoes, all perfect, all original and of finest parian texture. Only 7½ inches tall, he is handsomely dressed in a scarlet merino jacket, old brown, broad brimmed hat of almost the same hue as his glazed short hair. No. A537, \$68.00.

Another parian boy, really verging on white bisque, surprised us because the color and quality of the painting on this blonde made us give a snap judgment as Japanese. However, the number marking on his shallow shoulders seems definitely German. Head is 2½ inches high, but the face part, about 2 inches, so, right proportions in the nicely home-made body for the 12 inch doll that he is. Undressed; No. A538, \$10.00.

Parsons-Jackson infants don't turn up too often, although they

hailed from a Cleveland, Ohio manufacturer as a by-product to use up celluloid collar scraps. Ah, yes, all America was wearing those easily cleaned badges of gentility back at the century's turn. The dolls do not look like celluloid; sturdily made baby dolls (stork trademark) were popular around 1912. Kimport got in a small one, 10 inch size, perfect condition which is here offered as No. A510 at \$21.00.

Then very soon a larger, 12 inch one came in—sorry, minus one leg, and that is odd because the P.J. dolls have the finest of steel spring stringing, set into copper lined joints to make them practically everlasting. As is, he still sits straight with one leg only, and the long baby dress covers this loss. We may not have another one for months. No. A531, \$16.00.

Another baby, 11½ inch size, is so prettily formed with dimples and creases, cute finger and toe nails, sleepy eyes and a bit of modeled tongue in his pleasant baby mouth. All heavy celluloid, short blonde wig, and here was the unexpected thing about him—the well known bisque Kestner mark J.D.K. on his shoulders. Right hand fits up to a thumb sucking position. No. A327, \$14.00.

One might consider it unexpected to find a squat, heavy old omber-amber bottle under the red woolen skirt of a doll. There's a legend sewn onto this lined, pleated skirt but the ink is too faded for us to translate it. From the tight fitting cork there's a torso and the old china head is rare, too, with its

white pleated frill and bow tie modeled on; slight glaze crack, pretty face, black center part hair. Her waist is rusty black silk, leather hands; between pleats on the blouse is a row of the loveliest antique pearl buttons, their three sewing-on holes, sunk down so the patterned pearl top looks like a rosette. Ten inches tall; came from England and we think dates about 1880. No. 502 at \$25.00.

If you sort o' like to work dolls over, here is a slender, tall, lady-like person, 12 inch size; pretty wax head and shoulders; wax hands, one broken; human hair wig in auburn shade and old Dolly Varden taffeta, dolman type clothing in absolute tatters. She has high heeled leather legs with wires extending down from them, so she evidently stood on a base. The story document that came with her from England says "Edwardian," and tells how she arrived "unexpectedly," as our doll box was practically packed. No. A409 is \$17.50.

Sue Anna came from an old home, almost in the shadow of the state capitol building at Frankfort, Kentucky. She is one of those dear old china headed belles with delicate pink cheeks and a cupids bow mouth. There are pink lines above her bright blue eyes which are modeled rather deeply set beneath gray brows. Forehead is high and broad, rounding to big soft curls from temples to throat. The white line that centers her black, smooth topped hair, is flanked by small swirling ringlets. Head alone is 5 inch size; full busted with six sew-

ing-on holes; perfect except for a faint hairline across the shoulder back. Original, slender waisted body, leather arms; undressed; circa 1870 or "Reconstruction Period." She's well worth a handsome, old materials, costume. No. A542, \$35.00.

Since we now have an intelligent and resourceful English source, a Montanari or other fine old wax with hair inset, is not entirely 'unexpected.' Each one is a thrill though, and certainly whoever welcomes 'Lorena' will have a treasure; 19 inch size, a pinkish, solid wax so plump she's almost fat! Lots of personality, with beautifully shaped blue eyes that have a few set-in lashes above and below. Pale golden (real, of course) center parted, inset curls. All original, hair stuffed body with solid wax limbs and sorry, there's one broken finger on each hand. There's a document with her; old clothing all precious—a turquoise challis frock and the most delectable French bonnet with creamy silk lace and picot-edged ribbons of watermelon pink. Owner thought it an H. J. Meech English wax. No. A404, \$115.00.

IT PAYS TO SPEAK UP

Mrs. Arthur Grinage reported a successful appearance on TV Station WOOD of Grand Rapids. You will agree to the success when you hear that not only compliments but donations followed her talk. "One woman phoned," wrote Mrs. G., saying she knew now where to put her few old family dolls where they'd be loved.

A FIRST EDITION BARGAIN

The American Library Service is a long established and dependably reputable institution. Its prices are right. We saw on a current listing, Mrs. St. George's beautiful big "The Dolls of Yeterday," one first edition for re-sale 'in good condition,' \$10.00, so that is undoubtedly a right price.

It has been a policy of Kimport, through all the nineteen years we've played with Dolls, to never raise the price of an item we had in stock. True, sometimes when the bins were empty and incoming dolls were too much higher to allow the same old price, we've grudgingly advanced them then—not often.

Well, anyway, we have about three shelves of this choice book, the first edition, all new stock, so perfect. The price is \$7.50 as it was for the (Scribner) re-printing, which requests for this appreciated volume made imperative. Of course, supply is limited. 204 Pages; 80 Pages of gloss illustrations; size, 8½ by 11 inches; bound in blue buckram.

"The Dolls of Yesterday" by Eleanor St. George, \$7.50.

ANOTHER FULL HOUSE

Mrs. Verna Elias proudly lent us a most impressive photograph of her complete set of Presidents and First Ladies. On the base, below the tiered table upon which the dolls stood were forty-eight postcard pictures of our State capitols. Quite a lot of patriotism and history, we should say. Congratulations, Mrs. E.!

AH, YOUTH!

The ideas of youth and of children are apt to be the most refreshing, uncluttered thoughts that come our way. One youngster who lives near Kimport saves small change until her little red purse is simply popping, then dumps it all extravagantly, joyfully onto my desk for—"What will be next?"

This enthusiastic young blonde is Cathy Hattey, and here are a couple of her collection ideas. One, there's a miniature whatnot, 'really was some sort of wall cabinet, but now it is doll furniture and on it's shelves are tiny treasures. Idea No. 2—it's not Cathy's own collection, these small old dolls and such, but she just buys them for her play doll, Terri Lee, who never will grow up to think the whole idea foolish.

"Ye-es-s," agree I full seriously, "some of us wise ones will never belittle the loves of our childhood."

GENTLEMEN PREFERRED

It's a Kimport suspicion that Mrs. T. W. Alderson of Michigan rates boys even ahead of dolls. She keeps asking us for a doll Eagle Scout—anybody have a line on that one? Then, Mrs. A. admitted the doll budget was temporarily out of balance because she'd gone flying down to see her dad in Arizona, and now, "Thanks for that extra Doll Talk enclosing my Correspondence Clipping. My seven year old son had already reported to his teacher that his mother was an author."

THREE GENERATIONS OF PAPER DOLL APPRECIATION

Edith V. Paul, a Pennsylvania friend, did a "sharing" act when she wrote about some of her antique paper dolls—"two, a dancer, and a soldier, which were brought to my grandmother. She used them as ornaments in her parlor during my own mother's childhood.

"On the box the dolls are in, there is a picture of a dancer; it reads 'Taelioni' over her head and under, 'Erste Tauzerin bon Paris —Premiere Danseuse de Paris.' Each has three different costumes and there are slit black blocks for standing them up. Grandmother changed costumes so they were not always the same. She kept them on an old whatnot which my grandfather had made. Other paper dolls which were my mother's, including 'Goodey Two Shoes' and some which she and her sister made, with many dresses.

"I think I have the whole sets of Lucy Lane and Betty Bonnet, and Lucy Fitch Perkins Twins which came in Ladies Home Journal. There are those lovely ones published in Sunday supplement of Boston Herald in the late 1890's and I have two made by Raphael Tuck and Son; one wearing a light blue sailor dress has English flag and at least two other dresses. The other has Japanese, American, Indian and Turkish costumes. Later, McLoughlin Bros. made a copy of the last one; it is not as well done or pretty."

FAMILY TRAIT

Along with our last order from Louise Gabriel, West Virginia, was this friendly reminder: "We are four sisters, Ann Peterson of Texas who is an old customer of yours, Helen White of Parkersburg (of 'Helen's Babies'), Libby Campbell of Marion, Virginia, and myself, all collectors. Also our stepmother, Mrs. Harvey Marsh of Parkersburg. It simplifies the gift problem, that is, if we can 'turn loose' of a dolly intended for a gift after it once gets in our clutches!"

CALIFORNIA-SPANISH

When Virginia Sushkoff of California sent in a dollar for her first Doll Talk subscription, she took time to get acquainted, telling several stories that you, too, will enjoy reading. First, we loved her opening sentence—"I am so happy to hear about you people and the Doll Talk magazine. I had no idea there was such a thing in existence." This also—"I once dressed a small doll to look like Marie Antoinette, and made a box with a picture frame. In the back I pasted a copy of a portrait of Louis XIV; then attached a thread to the dolls waist and brought the thread through the back of the box. By pulling on this thread I could make her curtsy, supposedly to the King." Sounds ingenious, doesn't it, but please don't write in to ask me, Mrs. McKim, to explain just what sort of doll was so bendable and straighten-up-able. I am merely the inquiring and appreciative—not inventive type!

Mrs. Sushkoff, with apologies

—AND PURSE-SNATCHINGLY

In appreciation of the real artistry it took to bring forth Zella Layton's "Janie Grey," Mae Underwood invented the adverb "eye-catchingly" to precede good old "beautiful." As Mae said, "What a word—and as soon as we fill in a few other wants, we shall be back for another Layton."

Quarters are the coins that get side-tracked to daughter June's Doll of the Month bank at the Underwood home — "Even when the youngsters need new shoes!"

for altering an authoritative Kimport Lady of Spain, told what she had done with our Madrilena. As a child in New Orleans, she had known a fascinating Spanish lady, a Senora Vilgas.—"I was only six, but in my mind is still the glamorous picture of this lady, the first time I saw her, in black lace over fuchsia satin. Well, when I saw your graceful doll Madrilena, I really bought her to transform a bit. She is now an elegant Flamenco dancer in black lace over fuchsia with the lace design worked in tiny jet beads following the body pattern of the original gown. Her coiffure was much too fine to be covered up with a kerchief, so she now wears a rose, low at the side of her chignon. She still carries her fan but one hand now rests low on her hip and the other raised about level with her head as though she were about to begin her dance. P.S. I sewed your Kimport label back into the new gown, because after all, she is an authentic made-in-Spain adult little beauty!"

DOLL TALK

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

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Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

WORK VERSUS PLAY

Hazel T. Waugh, of New York State, had a lot of fun finding out how even trustworthy old Kimport can guess wrong betimes. Please, may I alibi first by admitting a hyper-thyroid imagination, really a delightful trait to have inherited. Secondly, the doll was a "one only," a pretty Korean girl included in the lot from which we selected for ordering Mother and Baby, bearded Gentleman, Bride and Groom. This one we sent to Mrs. Waugh was in beautiful silks with silver rods in her hands and then there was a block of wood. What would YOU have thought—Termite Huntress? Lady-High-Executioner?? Juggler or Musician??? We HAVE seen hopped up drummers beat the very sawdust out of a log—the Korean maid didn't look like that sort, but on went a tag, Korean Musician. No more alibis, no promises to never let imagination go again, but for this time, salaams, apologies, and the quote.

"Remember the Korean doll marked Musician which you sent me? I searched through all my books to find out what instrument she could play with those polished, shaped sticks she was holding. Finally, I was on the same program with a missionary from Korea and when I held up my doll and asked her what instrument she was playing, she just howled! When she stopped laughing she said, "Why the girl is ironing! But she's much too dressed up for the job." It seems that Korean clothes are all taken apart before they are washed, so they will lay flat. Then they are folded and



Now please don't be too critical about D. T. being "late again." Kimport, you may remember, is a 'way of life' for us McKims—not bad for Mrs. Missourian in February—Yes?

put on a block of wood and pounded with sticks in such an expert way that they come out all ironed. The missionary said she had seen the women performing the same act by stomping with their feet (the latter method used much more than the former). She said the cloth is folded and refolded until the job is done. Then the pieces are all sewed together again. Sounds rather tricky and time consuming to us Americans. I was so delighted to know this as I had been a little reluctant to speak about the doll as a musician. The only musical instruments I could find which they played were drums (with hands), cymbals, and a stringed instrument which was plucked like a harp."



TRULY, WHAT NEXT?

When Mary Louise Benham ran her delightfully named "Jenny Wren Doll's Workshop," she used to have many rare ones pass through for a bit of repair or for costuming. In looking through some old letters there was one written to us in 1943 in which she enumerates some that really make my mouth water—ten years later. Want to drool with us? You will if you are an enthusiast over antiques. Mrs. Benham wrote:

"Re your 'Information Please' about glazed china heads, I wonder if you have had acquaintance with the following types: (1) China head with short black curly hair, china teeth molded into the upper jaw of open mouth. (2) China head doll, head moves on pivot, pink lustre, china hair. (3) China head moves on pivot, wig hair. (4) Same as above with glass eyes and earrings. (5) China head with china hat molded on and glass eyes. (6) China headed doll, head moves around by means of a cord run through the body and terminating in lower part of back where it is secured by means of a tin washer.

"I have had all these types in my shop in the last few years and often wonder what next.

"Your little magazine is so enjoyable and just what doll collectors need."

No. 551B—Korean Bride, 10"	\$12.50
No. 551C—Korean Groom, 10½"	\$12.50
No. 551A—Korean Mother, 10"	\$12.50
No. 551—Korean Gentleman, 10½"	\$12.50

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"We need a doll from Asia, from some country that has Girl Scout and Brownie groups. The twins, Barbara and Marion, in working for their world pins, are using our foreign dolls for inspiration."

—Mrs. Madeline Geisen, N. J.

"We love Empress Josephine! My daughter, Sherry, is taking her and Napoleon to both French and English classes next week."

—Mrs. W. T. Mattison, S. C.

"The fur coat is paid for and they tell me that Alaskan Seal wears forever. I'm now ready to get back into the habit of ordering dolls. This may take a lot of practice, but my husband has great faith in my ability to buy anything!"

—Mrs. W. R. Cuthbert, W. Va.

"Now I would like to order the Rani to accompany the Raja, one wearing a nicely draped sari and a thali, wedding ring around her neck—all in all—a Rani comparable to the pedigree page."

—Mrs. R. M. Veh, Pa.

"So glad to get the Quebec Trapper doll. His snow shoes are wonderful. My Hubby even thought he was cute!"

—Mrs. Claude Dubree, Illinois.

"I enjoy Doll Talk immensely, and I am amazed at the wide variety of dolls you have."

—Gladys Glasgow, N. Y.

"Have started out on the ambitious project of getting a doll from every country in the world. It may take a long, long time but what fun! Was at quite a standstill until I discovered Kimport."

—Mrs. Arne Thompson, Wisc.

"You should see the Helen Young dolls that have been named Mr. and Mrs. Clancy! Thought I had started something I couldn't finish when I got busy on them, but the results are worth it."

* * *

"The Korean Dancer was a fine surprise and I was very happy with it. The Dolls of the Month have all been such good additions for my collection."

—Mrs. Frances Heimann, Texas

"Carrie Nation is wonderful; has caused a lot of favorable comment among my friends. One said, 'No guessing as to who she is!'"

—Mrs. C. L. Whitchurch, Michigan.

"You have certainly been a friend to me through the years. How could I have the wonderful collection of dolls that delight young and old, men, women and children, without your help!"

—Luta Ferrell, D. C.

"Everyone who sees my Pinocchio wants one like it—hence this order for four more."

—Mrs. M. K. Vierheller, Illinois.

"That miniature just came, and my, she is cute! I have put her in a tiny bud vase for 'safe keeping.'" —Mrs. M. A. Henry, Calif.

Dear
Old
and,



Dear
Me—
New!

We need not feel too sorry for the "Elsie Dinsmore" and "Rollo Boy" children who undoubtedly had surreptitious ways of being gay, although their dolls, their juvenile books and most of their toys do appear priggishly stilted. But childhood has ever had a way of inviting little souls to step into the World of Make Believe, as surely as the White Rabbit led Alice into Wonderland.

In relation to dolls, children just couldn't give the same possessive, motherly feeling toward stiff, adult-type dolls as they would lavish on pocket size tinies, and tot or baby dolls. So Elsie became part of a tea party or played Sunday afternoon calls in a straight backed chair while the lady-like dolls condescended a nod of swivel neck or a curtsey of leather knee. By way of aside, may we say that these dignified lovelies, the belles with flowers in their coiffures—or hats, with bustles, et al, these dolls with mature features and of lady proportions are almost always top favorites of the connoisseur.

When great grandmother was a girl, lady dolls were the vogue, but they were for best and not to be lightly fondled. The next genera-

tion had kid bodied girls with golden curls, wearing long waisted French dresses, and this was followed by character kiddies, first of breakable bisque and later by the more cuddly baby types that youngsters maul about in the very young mother fashion. You have seen the fantastically life-like products of today's manufacturers. A child need have no imagination whatever to tend a magic skin infant or a flirting eyed daughter who takes all beauty shop aids with blase assurance. No need for the Rabbit Hole or the Looking Glass! Instead of the child entering the doll's world, the doll has barged into the nursery.

So what? Oh, nothing in particular. I merely am an eager minded person with a bent toward impressionism who reverently cherishes imagination. It is the fresh, child mind that is rich, whether it has to make adjustments to the crudest of toys or those too fragile and elegant to permit familiarity. In many ways, it seems, these are the better kinds, because God given traits expand; imagination is not fettered by a realism that becomes domestic, gastonomic, common. What sheer delight to step behind the Looking Glass!

SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

KIMPORT DOLLS, Independence, Mo.